

City of Wichita Superintendent of Recreation



CITY OF
WICHITA
wichita.gov





Our Wichita Community



Don't miss this opportunity to play a significant role in making Wichita an even better place. With a vibrant downtown, outstanding quality of life, and dynamic transportation system Wichita is a premier community for opportunity. The Superintendent of Recreation will provide leadership in maintaining and enhancing Wichita's leisure opportunities working with community leaders, citizens and Park and Recreation partners.

Wichita, the largest city in Kansas, population 389,965, is the county seat of Sedgwick County; the population in the Metropolitan Statistical Area is 644,672.1 As of May 2017, the City's total land area was approximately 164.3 square miles. Wichita's employment includes a broad mix of business types, with a sizable base of relatively high paying manufacturing jobs. A list of Wichita's major private employers include Spirit AeroSystems, Inc., Via Christi Health, Textron, Inc., Bombardier Learjet, Koch Industries Inc., Wesley Medical Center, Dillons Food Stores, Cargill Meat Solutions, and Johnson Controls. The City of Wichita is also among the largest employers with approximately 3,000 employees.

Wichita is a community with big city amenities and a small town, friendly atmosphere. Low cost of living, exceptional educational opportunities, broad range of arts and cultural attractions, and many entertainment options make Wichita the ideal place to call home. Wichita's diverse cultural attractions are nationally



renowned and rival other metropolitan areas of comparable size. The city offers a professional opera, symphony, ballet and music theater as well as numerous cinematic and performance theaters ready to impress with plays and independent films. From traditional to contemporary, the city features a variety of art galleries and world-class museums and also accomplished local musicians and artists entertain and inspire on a continual basis.

Outdoor recreational activities abound in Wichita. There are more than 4300 acres of lush parks and greenways, tranquil botanical

gardens, numerous golf courses and more than 60 miles of bike paths. The Arkansas River provides additional recreational opportunities and serves as the centerpiece of the annual Wichita River Festival. It is home to the iconic Keeper of the Plains sculpture, which has become a symbol of Wichita and pays tribute to the Native Americans who first inhabited the area.

Wichita attracts approximately six million visitors each year. A variety of retail districts make it a shopper's paradise featuring local boutiques, eclectic shops and lifestyle centers. Wichita is also globally recognized as a top test market in the restaurant industry and can satisfy any appetite with more than 1,000 restaurants.

We could go on and on about our great City, but encourage you to use the links provided in this brochure to find out more for yourself. We think Wichita is a special place with great things happening — [CLICK HERE](#) to see the latest additions to our fine City in 3rd Quarter 2017.



Park and Recreation

Mission

Wichita Park and Recreation provides high-quality life experiences to the Wichita community through the enhancement of world-class amenities and activities.

Vision

To excel at what we do for the benefit of our community and generations to come.

The Wichita Park and Recreation Department consists of five major divisions: Administration; Golf; Park Maintenance and Forestry; Recreation; and Botanica. The Park and Recreation Department provides award winning leisure opportunities and enriches Wichita citizens and surrounding communities with outdoor spaces such as parks, trails, golf courses, and natural places. The Park and Recreation Department also provides athletic and cultural opportunities, and supports festivals and special events in Wichita.



Park and Recreation is vitally important to establishing and maintaining Wichita's quality of life. Park and Recreation does this by ensuring avenues are available to strengthen families, provide positive opportunities for youths, and to positively impact Wichita's economy, environment, and community well-being. Park and Recreation has also added "Meet Me at the Park" and Barry's Mobile Recreation Station, enhanced Forestry services paid by franchise fees from Westar Energy, and won many awards, including the "2016 Tree City USA." Staff also won many individual awards, including the "2016 Excellence in Public Service" award, the "Kansas Recreation and Park Association Professional Award." Outside recognition is an important indicator that Park and Recreation provides cutting edge and efficient services to the Wichita area.

Park and Recreation 2017 Departmental Awards

- ALSA Park Honor Award, Pracht Wetlands
- KRPA Distinguished Public Service Award, Bike Walk Wichita
- KRPA Distinguished Service Award, Jan Long
- KRPA Park Professional Award, Jim Mason
- KRPA Recreation Professional Award, Alan Taber
- KRPA Distinguish Board or Commission Member Award, Janet Miller
- KRPA Distinguished Elected Official Award, Lavonta Williams
- NAACP Legacy Award, Larry Dennis
- UTSA Facility of the Year, Ralph Wulz Riverside Tennis Center
- UTSA Outstanding Contributor to Youth Tennis, Ralph Wulz
- UTSA Outstanding Junior Tournament, Ralph Wulz

In October 2016, Park and Recreation was recognized for excellence in the field of parks and recreation management by achieving national accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) from the National Recreation and Park Association. The department is one of 170 accredited parks and recreation agencies in the United States and one of three (3) in Kansas. As part of the accreditation, Wichita Parks and Recreation had to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures.



The Challenges



Park and Recreation will manage many important capital projects in the next ten years. A total of \$22 million will be invested between 2018 and 2024 to implement the Aquatics Master Plan. Preparations are being made for improvements to develop Crystal Prairie Lake as a regional attraction. Naftzger Park will be improved in 2017 and 2018 using \$1.5 million in resources from the West Bank TIF District. Initial improvements to Crystal Prairie Park will be made from 2017 to 2024 at a cost of \$10.5 million. In total, there are 16 projects that will be managed by Park and Recreation in the 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Program, which will cost an estimated \$49.2 million over the ten-year period.



The Position

The Superintendent of Recreation directs all activities and staff of the Recreation Division. The Recreation Superintendent plans, promotes, organizes, and administers public recreation activities, programs, services, special events, amenities and facilities for the City of Wichita, including OJ Watson, nine (9) recreation centers, multi-use sports fields, trails, community centers, pools and many other assets. The Recreation Superintendent is a member of the department executive team and reports to the Director of Parks and Recreation. The Recreation Superintendent is responsible for strategic planning for the future growth of parks and recreation and facilities, establishing master plans and design guidelines, and ensuring maintenance of the existing amenities. The Recreation Superintendent is responsible for criteria related to the CAPRA accreditation and will mentor and guide staff in executing and developing the principles of the CAPRA accreditation document.





- The department has transformed and is becoming a community leading organization
- The department values working to address community issues such as health and wellness, social equity, and environmental education
- The department is creating the need and use of more technology and data driven decisions
- The department is active in community engagement at the neighborhood level and with Council and other community leaders
- The department has an impact on the community to include city pride, economic impact and creating a diverse and active community
- The department using interactive marketing approach and uses many media outlets to educate and reach our community
- The department is creating opportunities for social change and enhancing the quality of life in Wichita
- The department is more than Parks and Recreation we are the community!

The Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will be a visionary and high performing leader with passion who can constructively guide the Department in strategic planning and growth by building

on the substantial strengths of staff and community support. The candidate will be resourceful and innovative, yet pragmatic and analytical, knowing that you are accountable for delivering on time and within budget. The candidate will be excellent at communicating a vision and a plan, and know how to get others excited about executing them. It is not enough to have a vision, the candidate must lead others to accomplish the department's goals.



This will require a creative and service-oriented recreation professional who brings outstanding leadership and skills to provide programs and services that promote recreational programs, activities, sports activities, leisure activities, special events, entertainment, and health and wellness activities within the entire Wichita community under the general supervision of the Director of Parks and Recreation and partnerships with community stakeholders. Performance is monitored and measured through conferences, meetings, reports, observations, customer feedback and review of program measures.

- A minimum of five (5) years progressively responsible experience in recreation management, programming and administration will be required. Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) required, or ability to obtain within 6 months is preferred. In addition, the qualified candidate will bring the following skills, experience and behavior:



- **Values** – understanding and demonstration of the values of the City of Wichita.
- **Partnerships and Sustainability** – Demonstrated history of building strong business, association and organization partnerships to increase use of parks and recreation services.
- **Vision** – Provide an exciting vision and energy to lead the department to implementation of the short-term and long-term strategic plan for Parks and Recreation.

■ **Strategic Planning** — Be adept at identifying changes coming to the industry and provide advanced planning to best serve our citizens. This will include preparing recommendations on facility operational needs and policy planning to maintain safety and well-being of all participants who utilize our services.

■ **Budget/Finance** — Is creative and ethical in managing budgets, leveraging limited resources, and working effectively with Park and Recreation partners to maximize complex partnerships with a departmental system.

■ **Communication and Collaboration** — Skilled collaborator who easily builds collaborations among the Park and Recreation department, other city departments and Park and Recreation partners. An excellent and effective communicator, including one on one, small groups and public speaking, who confidently and persuasively engages citizens, community groups, staff and Council. Developing trust among citizens and partners will be critical.

■ **Image and Marketing / or / Technology** — Use of technology, social media, and “outside the box” thinking to market parks and recreation in new ways will be essential and will include marketing and branding to promote the benefits of recreation services,

■ **Leadership and Management** — An empowering leader equally dedicated to building a cohesive team throughout the department as well as the development of individual employees. Coaches, trains, and motivates and mentors staff; manages employee relations; manages the workflow and prioritization of projects and measures performance of the division and all related staff and takes appropriate corrective action when necessary. Promotes a positive work environment and uses a collaborative problem-solving approach and is skilled at fostering high-performing and high-morale teams.

■ **Teamwork** — Ability to create working partnerships with multiple city departments.

■ **Operations** — Knowledgeable in park and recreation operations including, scheduling, safety, federal and state regulations.

■ **Regulation, Compliance and Safety** — Demonstrated working knowledge in park and recreation safety, risk management practices and emergency procedures relating to participant safety is required.



- A bachelor's degree in parks management, recreation, leisure services, business or public administration or a similar field and three (3) years of supervisory or administrative experience in the conduct of recreation activities is preferred; a Master's degree is a plus. The City may consider a combination of education, training, and experience which provides the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities of the position. This position requires a principled leader who values accountability while holding realistic and fair expectations of self and others. Personal traits required include, honesty, integrity, leadership, cooperation and partnership building.

To Apply

To be considered for this position, all applications must be submitted through the City of Wichita Careers website at: www.wichita.gov. Please submit a cover letter and resume with application.

Application Deadline: Position is open until filled.

Employment Information

Pre-Employment Requirements

All offers of employment from the City of Wichita are contingent on the candidate passing a background check, physical and drug screening.

Relocation Assistance

Relocation may be available for qualifying candidates.

Residency requirement

Employees are required to live within 30 minutes of lawful driving time of the corporate city limits. Employees are allowed 60 days from their start date to meet that requirement if they do not own or have any equity in their residence, or six (6) months if they do own or have equity in their residence.

Equal Opportunity Employment

The City of Wichita will extend equal opportunity to qualified applicants and employees without regard to race, religion, color, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, political affiliation, age, sexual orientation, or other non-merit factors.

Veteran's Preference

As a Veteran of armed services, you may be entitled to preference when seeking employment with the City of Wichita. If you are interested in receiving Veteran's Preference, you must submit your DD 214 prior to the position closing date. All required documents may be attached to the application and submitted electronically.

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)

Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for the application and/or interview process should notify HR by calling 316-268-4531. The Kansas Relay phone number is 711.

Criminal History

Convictions (and arrests for law enforcement positions) for job-related offenses may be grounds for denial of employment for some or all City positions.

Resource Links

[Greater Wichita Partnership](#)

[Visit Wichita](#)

[Wichita Chamber](#)

[Wichita Parks Foundation](#)

[Botanica](#)

[Wichita Parks and Recreation 2018 Budget](#)

[Wichita Park and Recreation Video](#)



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